

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 TRSE-00 NEA-10 ARA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 ORM-02  
EB-08 COME-00 /107 W

-----111742Z 126570 /50

R 111544Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6409

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UG, US, GW

SUBJECT:UGANDA: AMIN INTERVIEW WITH U.S. JOURNALISTS

FOLLOWING IS AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN'S SUMMARY (FRG  
NUMBER 113) OF AMIN'S INTERVIEW WITH AMERICAN  
JOURNALISTS GIVEN ON MARCH 5:

BEGIN TEXT:

PRESIDENT AMIN ON MARCH 5TH, 1977 GAVE AN INTERVIEW  
TO AMERICAN JOURNALISTS FROM CBS, NBC AND AP.  
EXCERPTS FROM OFFICIAL VERSION OF INTERVIEW AS PUBLISHED  
HERE READ AS FOLLOWS:

-- PRESIDENT AMIN TOLD THE NEWSMEN THAT, AS THEY  
HAD SEEN FOR THEMSELVES, HE HAS NOT GOT ANY PALESTINIANS  
GUARDING HIM AS ALLEGED BY THE WESTERN PRESS AND THAT  
THERE ARE ONLY THREE CUBANS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM  
THE CUBAN EMBASSY AND NO MORE AS ALLEGED.

-- ON ALLEGATIONS BY THE WESTERN PRESS THAT

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CIVILIANS WERE BEING KILLED, PRESIDENT AMIN SAID THIS  
WAS NOT TRUE AND THE WESTERN PRESS WAS AGAIN BASING ITS  
REPORTS ON FALSE INFORMATION FROM EXILES.

-- HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOT AGAINST ANY  
RELIGION BUT ONLY THOSE CHRISTIANS, MUSLIMS AND PAGANS  
WHO WANT TO DISTURB THE PEACE OF THE COUNTRY AND ARE

AGAINST THE SECURITY OF UGANDA.

-- PRESIDENT AMIN STRESSED HE IS NOT AGAINST ANY RELIGION AND POINTED OUT THAT IN UGANDA THERE IS NO STATE RELIGION. BUT, HE SAID, HE WANTS PEOPLE FROM ALL RELIGIONS TO LIVE TOGETHER AS MEMBERS OF ONE FAMILY.

-- PRESIDENT AMIN TOLD THE NEWSMEN THAT HE DRIVES HIMSELF AROUND FREELY BECAUSE HE IS NOT WORRIED OR AFRAID.

-- HE POINTED OUT THAT IF GOD WANTS ONE TO DIE, ONE WOULD DO SO IN SPITE OF THOUSANDS OF GUARDS. HE GAVE THE EXAMPLE OF THE FORMER AMERICAN PRESIDENT, THE LATE JOHN KENNEDY, WHO HAD MANY GUARDS BUT WAS ASSASSINATED.

-- DR. AMIN SAID A PROGRESSIVE AND REVOLUTIONARY LEADER LIKE HIMSELF IS BOUND TO HAVE MANY ENEMIES SUCH AS THE AMERICANS, THE BRITISH, THE ISRAELIS AND THE EXILES, BUT, HE SAID, THIS DOES NOT WORRY HIM.

-- HE, HOWEVER, SAID HE ALSO HAS MANY FRIENDS IN BRITAIN AND IN THE AMERICAN CIA FROM WHOM HE GETS HIS INFORMATION.

-- PRESIDENT AMIN REITERATED THAT HE LIKES PRESIDENT CARTER BUT POINTED OUT THAT PRESIDENT CARTER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOES NOT SEEM TO UNDERSTAND THE MARSHAL NOR DOES HE UNDERSTAND AFRICA.

-- HE SAID HE WAS GRATEFUL TO PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HAVING APPOINTED A BLACKMAN AS UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS, BUT PRESIDENT CARTER DOES NOT UNDERSTAND AFRICA BECAUSE HE GETS HIS INFORMATION FROM EXILES.

-- HE SAID THE ISRAELIS HAVE NO RIGHT TO OCCUPY PALESTINE BECAUSE THEY WERE TAKEN THERE AS REFUGEES BY THE BRITISH WHO DROVE OUT THE PALESTINIANS.

-- HE POINTED OUT THAT DR. YASSER ARAFAT HAS ALWAYS STRESSED THAT IF THE STATE OF PALESTINE IS FORMED, THE PALESTINIANS ARE READY TO LIVE WITH THE JEWS, AND THE ZIONIST ISRAELIS HAVE REJECTED THIS.

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USIA-06 TRSE-00 NEA-10 ARA-06 DHA-02 IO-13 ORM-02  
EB-08 COME-00 /107 W  
-----111741Z 126640 /50

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6410  
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-- ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND  
UGANDA, PRESIDENT AMIN TOLD THE NEWSMEN THAT HE HAS  
NOTHING AGAINST THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA BUT ONLY  
CONDEMNS THE ZIONISTS WHO ARE CONTROLLING MOST OF  
AMERICAN'S BUSINESSES. HE SAID THE UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA IS WELCOME TO RE-OPEN ITS EMBASSY IN UGANDA.

-- ASKED WHY HE WANTED TO MEET THE AMERICANS IN  
UGANDA, THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WANTED TO MEET THEM AND  
THANK THEM FOR THE GOOD WORK THEY ARE DOING IN UGANDA.

-- HE SAID SINCE HE CAME TO POWER, HIS POLICY HAS  
BEEN AND STILL IS TO MEET PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS  
SECTIONS.

-- HE SAID HIS INTENTION TO MEET THE AMERICANS WAS  
TO GIVE THEM A RECEPTION AND HONORS FOR THE GOOD WORK  
WHICH SOME OF THEM HAVE DONE IN UGANDA SUCH AS IN  
MISSIONARY SCHOOLS AND IN THE UGANDA AIRLINES.  
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-- BUT, HE SAID, THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS  
MISUNDERSTOOD BY PRESIDENT CARTER AND HIS SECRETARY OF  
STATE THAT HE WANTED TO DETAIN THE AMERICANS.

-- HE SAID IT WAS STILL HIS WISH THAT AMERICANS  
SHOULD COME TO UGANDA TO ASSIST IN VARIOUS FIELDS,  
ADDING THAT HE STILL LOOKS FORWARD TO RESTORING  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES (SIC) AND THIS WAS  
WHY UGANDA STILL MAINTAINS AN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON.

-- HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT ONE DAY PRESIDENT  
CARTER WILL BE HIS BEST FRIEND SINCE IN POLITICS ONE  
CANNOT HAVE A PERMANENT ENEMY OR FRIEND.

END TEXT            ELLERKMANN  
STOESSEL

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009